

Purplish Copper *Lycaena helloides*

Habitat Preference: Disturbed areas such as road ditches, wetlands

Threats:

- Loss of prairie habitat
 - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground
 - Tree invasion: shade is detrimental to the success of this species
- Invasion of non-native plants
- Haying at certain times of the year could limit available flowering plants used for food.
- Over grazing will limit available flowering plants used for food.
- Fragmentation could cause butterflies to travel long distance to find the particular plant species it feeds on.
- Loss of wetland habitat. Many natural wetland have been drained throughout Iowa for agricultural practices.



Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Preserve natural wetlands
- Reestablish grassland habitat. Both caterpillars and adults feed on forbs, caterpillars on the vegetations and butterflies on the nectar. When creating a new seeding consider including forbs that bloom at different times throughout the summer to create a constant food source.
- Remove encroaching woody vegetation.
- Burning can eliminate and control encroaching woody vegetation. Fall burnings will be very important to promote forb growth. An area should not be burned more than every 3-5 years. Areas should be broken up into complexes that are burned on a rotational basis to provide refuge for purplish copper.
- Cease grazing in areas known to support purplish copper.
- Remove tile whenever possible to restore hydrology and therefore restoring wet prairie habitat.